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WOOD HALF PENNIES AND FARTHINGS.

COLLATED BY JOHN W. HASELTINE.

There had long been a great deficiency of copper coin in Ireland. Probably this coinage had never been fully restored since James II exhausted it in payment of his forces and endeavored to supply its place by half pence, minted from old pans and kettles. The deficiency was so great that manufacturers and shopkeepers were compelled to pay their workmen and give change to their customers in bits of card-board bearing their seal and signature. The Government undertook to remove this pressing want of so useful a medium, and they set about it in an honest and honorable manner as regarded the quality of the coin. Tenders were issued and various offers received for the coining of farthings and half pence, to the value of one hundred and eight thousand pounds. In 1721, the proposal of Mr. William Wood, an iron and copper founder of Wolverhampton, was accepted; but the quality of the coin, both as to weight and fineness, was determined by the advice of Sir Isaac Newton, then Master of the Mint, and Wood was bound under heavy penalties to furnish it according to this stipulation. Every means were used by the Ministers, Solicitor and Attorney General to ensure the supply of a much better copper coinage than Ireland had ever possessed before.

There were some circumstances, however, which came out, that created considerable suspicion and displeasure in Ireland. Wood had given a bribe to the king's mistress, the Duchess of Kendal, to procure him the contract, and the Government had ordered the coinage without paying the Irish Privy Council and Lord Lieutenant the compliment of consulting them on this occasion. Swift saw these errors and seized on them for his own purposes. He did not stop to inquire whether, after all, the proposed coinage would not, under any circumstances, be much better than the present distressing scarcity of copper money, and whether the farthings and half pence might not turn out as good, though they were contracted for. It was enough for him that there was a cause for discontent which he could fan into a flame against the English Government. He threw all his spiteful soul into it. The public mind was inflamed by the indus-

trious circulation of representations that the English were going to enrich a stranger at the expense of the whole of Ireland and that a universal robbery was about to be committed on the nation by means of a base and worthless coin. The irritation grew; the Irish Parliament met full of resentment, and both houses passed addresses to the King, declaring that Wood had not kept to the terms of the patent; that even if he had, the loss to the country, by the coinage, would be one hundred and fifty per cent.; that now it would be still more monstrous. Walpole received the addresses to present to the King, declaring that the assertions were untrue, and showed that it was an excellent coin and of due value. Still, by Walpole's advice, a mild answer was returned by the King to the addresses.

A committee of the Privy Council was appointed to make a strict scrutiny into the matter, and Sir Isaac Newton was ordered to assay the new coin with all care. He returned for an answer, as the result of his assay, that the coins, in goodness and fineness, so far from falling short, even exceeded the conditions of the contract; that although, on account of the difference of exchange between the two countries, it was necessary to make the Irish half pence rather less weight, yet that this difference was more than made up in fineness. which was superior to that of the English.

This report would have been enough to allay all irritation, but it did not in the least deter Swift. He continued his onslaught on the coin, the patentee and the English Government with only greater virulence and audacity; he attacked Wood and his half pence in poetry and prose; he launched forth ballads and lampoons of the most popular and at the same time unscrupulous character.

(*To be continued.*)

ROMAN FAMILY COINS.

(*Concluded.*)

AURELIA. *Obv.* Head of Rome, helmeted, to right; behind it X. This latter character, sometimes made with a third stroke, so as to form six arms, is the ordinary sign of the denarius, or silver penny as the equivalent of ten asses.

Rev. AV (monogram) RVF (monogram), Exergue Roma. Jupiter in a quadragi at speed to right, holding in his right a thunderbolt, and in his left a sceptre and the reins.

The number of monograms which the denari present to our notice is remarkable, Riccio giving a table of ninety-one fac-similes of these ingenious combinations by which the ancient die cutters diminished their labors. They lead to some confusion on the part of moderns. Thus the blended AV on other coins was mistaken by the Vaillant for AN, and he accordingly assigned them to the Gens Annia, or Annian House, but the consideration of this very piece, on which that monogram is united with the one which denotes "Rufus," characterizing a family of the Gens Aurelia, or Aurelian House.

caused the numismatists to unite in giving to "Aurelia" all denarii bearing the disputed monogram, as well as the *Aurelius Rufus* under our notice. The coiner of this latter is not known. The simplicity of the style indicates that it was struck about the time of the second Punic War.

BARBATIA. *Obv.* M-ANT-IMP-AVG- (monogram) III-VIR-R-P-C-M-BARBATI-Q-P. This legend unabreviated is Marcus Antonius·Imperator Augur Triumvir Republicae Constituendae Marcus Barbatius Quaester Provincialis," and may be translated *Mark Antony, Commander in Chief, Augur, Triumvir for reconstructing the republic, Marcus Barbatius, Provincial Quaestor.* Head of Mark Antony, undraped, to the right.

Rev. CAESAR-IMP-PONT-III-VIR-R-P-C. "Caesar Imperator Pontifex Trimvir Republicae Constituenda" equivalent to *Caesar, Commander-in-chief, High-Priest, Triumvir for reconstructing the republic.* Head of Octavian, slightly whiskered, undraped to the right.

This common but very interesting coin presents us with authentic portraits of the two triumvirs, who, with Lepidus, formed the celebrated league after Caesar's assassination. We call the young grand-nephew of the murdered dictator by the name which properly belongs to him until some time after Antony's overthrow at Actium, B. C. 31. Not till B. C. 27 was he entitled "Augustus." His full name, previously, as a son of C. Octavius Rufus, and testamentary adoptive son of the great Julius, was Caius Julius Caesar Octavianus, the last word indicating his transference from the Gens Octavia to the Gens Julia. This denarius was struck, as its lettering indicates, by a certain M. Barbatius Philippus, provincial Quaester or treasurer of Antony. It is worthy of observation, as a key to the system of classification pursued by writers on Roman Family Coins, that this one may be placed with almost equal propriety under either of the heads ANTONIA, BARBATIA and JULIA, and is in fact described under all of them—a method of proceeding which of course swells the dimensions of such works, though unavoidably, while it is nevertheless manifest that the moneyer Barbatius has the best right to attach it to his Gens or House.

CAECILIA. (1) *Obv.* ROMA Head of Rome, to the right, helmeted, the top of the helmet resembling the head of a serpent; in front, *.

Rev. C. METTELVS, *Caius Metellus,* Male Figure crowned by a flying Victory, in biga to the left, drawn by elephants, one of which has round its neck a bell.

Struck by C. Caecilius Metellus, fourth son of Quintus Caecilius Metellus Macedonicus. The elephants refer to the victory gained at Panormus, now Palermo, in Sicily, by Caius' great-grandfather, Lucius Caecilius Metellus, over Hasdrabal, B. C. 250, in which 120 elephants were taken, and were afterwards conveyed to Rome on rafts, to adorn the triumph of Metellus (Liddell, 275).

(2) *Obv.* ROMA Head of Rome, helmeted, to the right, before it, X.

Rev. M-METELVS-Q-F-, equivalent to "Marcus Metellus, Quinti Filius," that is, *Son of Quintus.* This legend encompasses a Macedonian or circular shield, in the middle of which is an elephant's head: the whole surrounded by a laurel wreath.

Struck by M. Caecilius Metellus, third son of Q. C. Metullus Macedonicus who, enjoyed a triumph for conquering Andriscus or Pseudo-Philippus, B. C. 149 (Lidd. 477).

The two last named coins are common and cheap. Have we proved in regard to them, as well as to others, that their investigation rewards the labor and requires no wonderful amount of learning.

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(*Continued.*)

Granby or Higley Copper; obverse, a deer facing left within a circle, "Value me as you please;" reverse, three hammers crowned, "I am good copper; 1737;" good condition; very rare. $25 50.

Granby or Higley Copper; obverse, like the last: reverse, a broad axe, "I cut my way through;" good condition; extremely rare. $12 50.

Connecticut Cent, 1785; weak impression, but uncirculated, scarce. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1785; negro head, scarce. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1785; large head; the best cut die of any of these pieces, very fine and scarce. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1785: bust in armor, head laureated; fine. 25 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1785; very fine, differs from any of the preceding. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1785; quite unlike any other variety, the die broken; very fine. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1785. 25 cents.

Connecticut Cents, 1785; a selection of seven pieces, no duplicates, and all in good condition. 30 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; large head, facing right; reverse, "Et Lib Inde." This variety, quite unlike the following, is very rare. $1.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; bust facing right: reverse, "Et Lib. Inde;" the ordinary type, good, scarce. 30 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; large, round head, facing right: a scarce variety. 38 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; grotesque head, facing left: fine and a rare variety. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; obverse, like the last, but reverse from a different die; good, scarce. 75 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; large bust, facing left; very fine. $1 75.

Connecticut Cent, 1786; a selection of four varieties, one Et Lib. Inde; all good. 25 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; projection from the bust resembling a horn; very fine. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; ordinary type, uncirculated. $2 12.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; reverse, "Et Lib. Inde; on extra large planchet, fine and scarce. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; "Et Lib. Inde;" small size, fine. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; "Auctopi;" very fine, scarce. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; Auctopi;" from another die. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; broken die; fracture extending entirely across the head; fine. 38 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; laughing head, uncirculated. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; "Inde et Lib;" uncirculated; scarce. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; uncirculated, the letters unusually large. $1 50.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; in perfect condition, portions still bright, and a very fine, sharp impression; rare. $2 12.

Connecticut Cent, 1786. "Auctori Connfe;" very fine and scarce. 87 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; another variety, with Connfe; fine and scarce. 65 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; Inde. et Lib.; unlike the other, good and scarce. 75 cents.

(To be continued.)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(Continued.)

Paper money continued to be the chief instrument in the hands of Government. The press was kept in perpetual motion. Printers who labored at it obtained an exemption from militia duty. Ragged and torn notes were replaced, and bills of every denomination were issued in millions.

The form of those bills, as settled by Congress, was thus:

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY.

No._____ Dollars.....

This bill entitles the bearer to receive ———— Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to a resolution of Congress.

On each bill was stamped a rudely printed emblem, with a Latin motto, amounting in number to twenty. Those devices and pithy sentences are said to have been composed by Benjamin Franklin and Charles Thompson, aided by the Latinist of the Continental Congress.

Those mottoes, placed opposite to each denomination of the bills, are as follows :

1	Dollar.	Depressa Resurgit.
2	"	Tribulatio Ditat.
3	"	Exitus in dubio est.
4	"	Aut Mors, aut vita Decora.
5	"	Sustine vul Abstine.
6	"	Perseverando.
7	"	Serenabit.
8	"	Majora Minoribus consonant.
20	"	Vi concitatæ.
30	"	Si recte facies.
30	"	(On the reverse) Cessante vento conquies cemus.
35	"	Hinc opes.
40	"	The only English motto—"Confederation," except on the bills of a fractional-part of a dollar.
45	"	Sic floret Respublica.
50	"	Perennis.
55	"	Post Nubila Phœbus.
60	"	Deus regnat Exultet Terra.
65	"	Fiat Justitia.
70	"	Quadrennium Sustinuit, Vim Procellarum.
80	"	Florscebit et in seenla Seenlorum.

Eighty was the highest denomination issued.

On the small bills, of one third, one half and two thirds of a dollar, "Fugio" was the Latin motto, and in English, "Mind your business."

Decorated with these fine maxims, Congress sent forth this cheap defence of the nation, with a recommendation to the Legislatures of the States not only to make the bills a lawful tender in payment of public and private debts, but, in case of refusal to receive them, to declare such refusal an extinguishment of the debt.

They were requested, likewise, to stop the emission of their own State paper, and to adopt the Congressional currency for a circulating medium.

Conventions, to consist of four or five adjacent States, were, moreover, designated by Congress as necessary, in order to regulate the price of labor, manufactories, country produce, and all imported goods, as well as the charges of inn-holders, and to enact suitable laws to empower the commissaries of the army to take from forestallers, engrossers and others who might have a larger supply than their families required, all such articles for government use as were wanted, and at such cost as the law thus enacted should fix. The price of provisions, and of everything needed by the army, was to be settled also in this arbitrary way ; and all for the purpose, say Congress, of checking "a spirit of sharping and extortion, and the rapid and excessive rise of everything."

(*To be continued.*)

GEN. LAFAYETTE'S WATCH.

A GIFT FROM GEN. WASHINGTON TO GEN. LAFAYETTE DISCOVERED IN A PAWNBROKER'S SHOP.

We extract from a Nashville journal the following interesting account of the finding of a watch presented to Gen. Lafayette by Gen. Washington, and stolen from him during his visit to this country, forty-five years ago.

While the Revolutionary war was going on, there lived in Philadelphia a Switzer, named Weitzel, a watchmaker by trade, a man of great ingenuity and inventive genius. Having a great admiration for Gen. Washington, he constructed a watch with peculiar care, which, having placed in a valuable gold case, he presented to Gen. Washington, with instructions to present it to any man he might find who deserved more of the American people than himself. Gen. Washington carried the watch until the efforts of Gen. Lafayette had impressed him with the value and distinguished character of the man, and believing that he had found the man designated by Weitzel in his instructions, he compelled Gen. Lafayette to accept the watch. Gen. Lafayette carried the watch until his return to this country, in 1825, when, as the guest of a grateful free people, he made a tour through the country, receiving everywhere the plaudits and welcome of a people of whose history he had written the brightest page. While pursuing his triumphal journey, he arrived at Nashville, and while at that city, receiving the congratulations of the citizens of Tennessee, the watch was stolen. Every effort possible was made to recover it; the papers throughout the whole country advertised it; large rewards were offered, and the detective officers in all the cities were on the alert to recover the watch. But in spite of all that was done at the time, the watch was not found, and in time the matter was forgotten.

Not many days since, in a Western city, a watch exposed for sale in the window of a pawnbroker attracted much attention from people passing by its peculiar make and value. One day, an old gentleman, passing the window, saw the watch, and, on looking at it closely became satisfied that he knew something about it, stepped into the shop and requested the pawnbroker to let him examine it. This was readily granted. After a moment, the old gentleman exclaimed, "This was Gen. Lafayette's watch, presented to him by Gen. Washington, and stolen from him on his visit to this country in 1825. I know it from the description published at that time." The pawnbroker was astonished to hear this, and proceeded at once to exculpate himself by assuring the gentleman that he did not have the slightest suspicion that it was stolen property; he had loaned some money upon it to a yonng girl who was in great distress, and who represented that it was a family relic which had been given her by her mother. The old gentleman insisted that the girl should be produced; he wanted to hear her story himself. He was much excited, remarked that he was

one of the marshals that arranged the procession to receive the great guest on the day the watch was stolen, and his honor, as well as that of every man then living in the nation, was involved. The pawnbroker said nothing was easier, as the girl, who danced at some place of entertainment, occupied a room in the next house, and if the gentlemen would walk back and take a seat, he would send for the girl. The old gentleman took the proffered seat, and in a few minutes the girl came in. She looked weak and feeble, though young, and when questioned about the watch did not evince the least want of composure, but without hesitation proceeded to give in answer to questions the following narrative: She was born among the mountains of East Tennessee, and when she was about eight years old her parents removed to Memphis, where they remained three years; then they went to St. Louis, where they lived until both her parents died—her father died first, and about one year after her mother died. The watch had been in the possession of her father all her life; she could recollect seeing it in her youth distinctly; that her father, when importuned to sell it by visitors, invariably resisted, saying that it had been in his family many years, he having received it on the death of his father, with positive instructions not to sell or dispose of it, but to keep it in the family; her mother had charged her not to sell it, but keep it. She was then saving money to redeem the watch; would not have pawned it, but a severe fit of sickness had reduced her to such straits that she was obliged to resort to the watch to raise money for absolute necessaries to sustain life. The old gentleman heard the girl's story with astonishment, and being satisfied from her manner that she told the truth, he felt convinced that the theft of the watch was still a mystery—or, at least, it would be impossible after so many years to learn who committed the robbery.

It is creating some excitement to know what disposition shall be made of this interesting relic, with its singular history. To whom can it be given? Who should properly be its custodian? Is there any heir of Gen. Lafayette who can legally claim it? Or should the United States Government come forward, pay charges, and place it in the Patent Office Museum with other relics of the great men of a former generation.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALES.

Our ninth and tenth coin sales were brought to a successful and satisfactory issue on the 21st and 22d ult. The first of the sales was remarkable in the number of spectators. At one time there were not less than two hundred persons present at the sale. The coins, with a few exceptions, were not remarkably rare nor fine, and with this fact in view we can safely assert the sale was a success. Our tenth sale was also well attended and the prices obtained liberal in the extreme. This sale ended the long series of public sales of coin collections which characterized the year 1869.

THE WELSH COIN SAID TO HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE GIANT'S BED.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 10, 1869.

In relation to the copper coin said to have been found among the loose dirt thrown up from the bed of the excavation where the "Cardiff Giant" was found, allow me to give a description of a coin in my possession, which I think is the same thing:

Obverse—A head in profile. "Jestyn-ap-Gwrgan—Tywysog Morganwg, 1091."

Reverse—A figure of Britannia, with spear and shield, sitting on a globe, pointing to a ship at a distance; behind her a crown on a pedestal, and olive branch. Y Brenhin-ar-Gyfraith. 1795."

Edge—"Glamorgan Halfpenny."

This is nothing more nor less than an English token or Glamorgan halfpenny—South Wales—struck in 1795. They can be obtained in this country and in London in almost proof condition. It may be that the "Cardiff Giant" was a Welshman and the coin found was his last "red," but, previous to 1795, I should not connect them together. I give you this information for what it is worth, not wishing to spoil a good story, or deduct from the value of the coin, which would be worth, in good condition, twenty-five cents.

Yours, respectfully, C. P. Nichols.

AN AMUSING COIN SALE.

On the 17th of December, and the following day, there was sold in New York a collection of coins, comprising 1958 lots—copper and silver, foreign and American—the cataloguing of which must have forced a smile, even from our impetuous and somewhat irate friend, Mr. Cogan. It was a rich treat to receive and read the catalogue. What must have been the fun and excitement attendant upon the actual sale of such a conglomeration of unmitigated trash as the 1958 lots presented? Oh! how we pity the compiler of that catalogue. How his patience and equanimity of temper must have been tried as he waded through the repetitions of conditions from "poor" to "rascally poor!" To show our readers the ingenious twists and remarkably large number of degrees of comparison friend Cogan has added to our simple-minded Lindley Murray's definitions of a little bit of an adjective, we reproduce a few of the most amusing terms so profusely peppered throughout this enjoyable condiment of a catalogue: "poor," "very poor," "unusually poor," "very poor indeed," "miserably poor," "exceedingly poor," "extremely poor," "still poorer." "wretchedly poor," "rather poor," "poor impression," "decidedly poor," "poorer still." After all this severe handling of the diminutive adjective, friend Cogan loses his patience, and on number 1716 he comes down with vindictive emphasis and says, "rascally poor." This rather poor collection realised the sum of $205 net. What a wonder!

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Lex, Philadelphia.—Your clock has knocked "time" out of our calculations regarding the inventions or discoveries of Galileo. We give our readers the benefit of your remarks: "I am aware that popular belief is divided between Galileo and Huyghens as to introducing the pendulum; but, whoever was the inventor, I can furnish ocular demonstration that neither of them is entitled to that credit. I have in my possession a portable brass clock, with pendulum movement, made in 1566; and Galileo was born in 1564, and Huyghens not till 1629. My clock is very similar in appearance to the "Annie Boleyn clock," as represented under the head of Horology in Chambers' Cyclopedia; and it is a remarkable fact that, with the exception of the engraving, these usually voluminous authors dismiss that clock without a single comment as to its maker or the date of its construction. The history of my clock is exceedingly romantic, but is far too lengthy to be presented at present. Suffice it to say that it originally belonged to Mary Queen of Scots; and as the subject of ancient clocks seems lately to have attracted considerable public attention, I purpose depositing mine, at no distant period, in some public place, where it can be seen and examined by the curious in such matters. Meantime, I give you my real name and address, which you are at liberty to furnish to any one having immediate curiosity to gratify.

S. M., Jr., Boston.—Mr. S. S. Crosby, of your city, is engaged on a work giving the history and peculiarities of the colonial coins of this country. The history of pattern pieces was interrupted in consequence of the information given us that R. C. Davis, Esq., of Philadelphia, was preparing a full and complete history of the experimental and pattern issues of the United States Mint. Our medal list is not yet completed, but will receive early attention in the present volume.

Eyes Right, New York.—Engravers and die-sinkers, of course, have a knowledge of tooling and cutting coins. If they are not experts, where shall we find them? If a lump of copper is electrotyped upon the centre of a coin, of sufficient thickness to cut a horse's head, the ring of the piece is materially affected; but if a thin coating is evenly deposited thereon, the ring of the piece will produce the same sound as the original coin.

B. B., Richmond.—We have no back numbers, excepting a few in 1868 and 1869. Our first volume is valued at $10, the second at $5 and third at $2. We only print enough for original subscribers, and all persons subscribing after the 1st of February cannot expect to get the January number.

Numis, Camden.—Most of our patrons bind the covers in the volumes of our journal, thus dispensing with a title page. An index would cover too much ground with each volume. We propose publishing supplementary leaves at some future time, combining title pages with index to each volume. Have patience.

A. N. S., NEW YORK.—In the language of Shakspeare and Horace Greeley, the article in the *New York Tribune* concerning our sale of November, in New York, was a tissue of unmitigated, unwarranted, unparalleled *black lies* from beginning to end. A certain *pretended friend* of ours in New York has written and spoken so nearly akin to the *Tribune's* remarks that we think we smell a fair sized rat; and if this blustering Iago does not cease his intimations, we shall speak out more plainly and give a few chapters of his career in New York. Parties who have received intimations of a "put up sale" will know the miscreant who pens the infamous and libelous communications without seeing his address in full in our columns.

L. T. P., CHICAGO.—All communications on coin or stamp business should be addressed to this office. We have no other firm nor office but Mason & Co., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia. If we remove, ample notice will be given.

S. M. C. A., ST. LOUIS.—A set of U. S. Cents, without rare dates, is worth, in common condition, $3 50 to $5. Including rare dates, $8 to $50. An uncirculated set is worth about $1000.

L. M., TROY.—Beware of bright pennies of old dates. Buy them as restrikes, but not as originals. We can send 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819 (large and small dates) and 1820 U. S. Cents for 25 cents each, or fair ones for 2 cents each.

P. R. T., MONTREAL.—The "naked bust" Washington piece is next in value to the 1804 dollar, it having realised at auction $480.

R. C., WASHINGTON.—Have replied to yours of recent date and alluded to your request editorially.

S. T., ALBANY.—No one should make unfair use of individual names found in our magazine.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

This number of our journal is increased from twelve to sixteen pages, and if our hopes of the future are realised it will not be long before the illustrations of our country's interesting coinage, and the ancient coinage of the old world, will be fully represented. All of our patrons to whom we mail the January number are earnestly requested to subscribe before the fifteenth of next month, and thus secure a complete volume. Back numbers will not be reserved for dilatory subscribers.

THE MICKLEY SALE.

The catalogue of this sale, which has from time to time appeared in our columns, will be completed in a few more numbers, and those of our subscribers who are not fortunate enough to possess a Mickley catalogue, will be pleased to know that the entire series of American coins, medals, etc., as possessed by J. J. Mickley, Esq., with their value, can be found in our journal, and will eventually make this magazine a valuable work for reference.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

By reference to the advertisement on the cover, it will be seen that the valuable collection of James B. Longacre (deceased), late of the United States Mint, consisting of rare silver and copper United States pattern pieces, medals, works on art, paintings, proof engravings, etc., will be sold about the 21st of January, due notice of which will be given by catalognes, to be forwarded to such of our subscribers as are interested in the sale. The sale will take place at Thomas & Sons' spacious auction rooms, Nos. 139 and 141 South Fourth Street, in this city. As Mr. Longacre was for many years the engraver at the United States Master Mint, our readers can be assured that the coins and medals offered in this sale will be choice and valuable specimens.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GENTS:—Could you not commence your new volume by reproducing some essential information contained in previous ones? For instance, why not commence and give a statement of the issues in different years—giving dollars to three cent pieces, patterns and copper, nickel and bronze pieces. It would undoubtedly add to the circulation of the Magazine, for *new* subscribers cannot often afford to buy up back volumes. I wish you would do this. R. C

[What say our readers about this matter? Ed.]

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Dec. 16, 1869.

MASON & Co.:—GENTS.—We shall have fourteen subscribers to your magazine for 1870. C. P. NICHOLS.

[Good for Springfield! Ed.]

UNIQUE PUBLICATION.

Bachelor Bros., a couple of waggish numismatists, have conceived the idea of publishing a newspaper devoted to the interests of that unfortunate class yclept "old maids" and "old bachelors." Having had a peep at the advanced sheets, we predict a rich treat for the lonely bipeds among our readers who have the misfortune to be "left out in the cold," these long winter evenings. Terms, $1 per annum. See advertisement on the cover.

PRESTO! CHANGE!

We have concluded to change the style of our printed pages from double to single columns, by which we avoid the constant necessity of dividing words. The present style is more convenient for the reader and we think presents a neater appearance generally.

SUBSCRIBE NOW.

We again solicit early notice of renewed subscriptions, as we shall not print extra copies, and will not be able to fill orders for back numbers after February.

A CURIOUS COIN.

A great rarity in the shape of coins has lately been sold at Paris, namely, a silver one struck off at Breslau in 1761. Among the persons employed at the time in the mint was an Austrian, who, out of hatred to Frederick II, of Prussia, who had taken possession of Silesia by right of conquest, conceived the idea of revenging himself on that monarch in the following manner: The motto on the coin, "Ein reichs thaler" (A crown of the kingdom), he had divided in such a manner as to make it read, "Ein reich stahler" (He stole a kingdom). The king ordered these insulting coins to be all melted down, but some few of them still exist.

WANTED.

January, February, March, April and November numbers of our magazine, 1867; June and December numbers, 1868; January, April, June, and August numbers, 1869. We will enter any person as a subscriber for 1870 sending us a first, second, or third volume.

PLEASING NEWS.

From every portion of the country we have the joyful intelligence that our list of subscribers is to be greatly increased during the present year.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW ISSUE UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.

It is not generally known that nearly all the postage stamps made for the country are manufactured in New York, in the upper stories of Cooper Union, by the National Bank Note Company. More than four hundred millions were last year sent thence, and very few were stolen in process of manufacture. In answer to the complaint of the public in general with regard to the quality of the sticking gum used in the last issue of stamps, the company begs leave to explain that the trouble arises from the supersalivary use made of them by that public. The gum is just as adhesive as that formerly used, but is of so light a color that people suspect none is on, and moisten it too much. That's what's the matter. The designs of some new postage stamps having been decided upon, the company will very shortly prepare the plates from which they are to be printed. The smaller denominations will probably be ready by the first of February. Changes have been made in some of the busts of public characters. Hamilton, for instance, is presented without his pigtail, which has been for so many years his honored appendage on postage stamps; and Jackson is left out in the cold, so to speak, for he is denuded of that historical coat which has swathed his figure for a time beyond the memory of the oldest post office Vet. Those who have seen the new designs pronounce them superior to the present postal frauds, both the color and execution of which are so offensive.

THE STAMP'S LAMENT.

I am a little Postage Stamp,
And not unknown to fame—
Through every clime, both dry and damp.
I bear my country's name;
And any one who looks, can see
My gracious Sovereign smile on me.

And yet withal I'm badly used:
No matter *what* I do,
It seems that I must be abused,
And you would think so too;
Should I but tell of many a scene
Of violence through which I've been.

When I was born, I was a twin,
And I had brothers many,
But I've been torn from all my kin.
Of *all* remain not any;
And he who took me from my friends,
He "licked" me well to make amends.

He "sticked" me on an envelope,
I fell down a dark place—
For me, another fiend did grope,
And struck me in the face;
So hard the blow his hand did give.
I shall be black while I shall live.

Then I was thrust into a bag,
'mong letters large and small,
And knocked about nor let to lag—
I'm just alive—that's all!
But stamp collectings all the rage;
I may find rest on album's page.—*Postman's Knock.*

THE NEW UNITED STATES POST OFFICE STAMPS

Some of our friends smiled incredulously when we claimed an influence, through this journal, in causing the proposed change in the postage stamps in present use from little blue locomotives and funny postboys to the representation of our distinguished patriots and statesmen, whose profiles are to do honor to our postage system. Several of our most famous Philadelphia collectors are members of the Union League, and they are subscribers to our journal, and have agreed with our remarks in burlesquing the stamps now in use. Read what the League says: "In the early part of the summer a single point of public interest invited and received the attention of the Board. The banishment of the heads of Washington and

Jackson from the postage stamps most in use, and the remarkable substitution of the representations of a locomotive engine and a mounted postboy in their places, had been publicly criticized in the League with great dissatisfaction and regret, and subsequently the subject was brought directly to the attention of the Board. In such an unworthy change we were satisfied the administration of President Grant had taken no part. The new stamps had been prepared by the contracters under President Johnson. A committee was appointed to communicate to the Postmaster General what the Board believed to be the general feeling in the League on the subject, and such a representation was accordingly made. The miscarriage of this letter appears to have deprived the Board of the receipt of the Postmaster General's acknowledgment of our communication. We learn, however, that the memorial of the committee was received, and its suggestions carefully considered. We have reason to suppose that our views coincided with those of the Postmaster General, as we have the satisfaction to learn that new dies are now in preparation and five profile and five full-face heads of Washington, Hamilton, Franklin, Jackson and Lincoln are to be substituted for the ten denominations of stamps, and that the present stamps are to be withdrawn as soon as possible."

NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.—The Post Office Department has accepted designs for the new series of stamps to supply Randall's nondescrips. We expect to see the thing announced after the manner of the merchants now-a-days somewhat as follows:

THE HOLIDAYS!

GREAT INDUCEMENTS IN PICTURES!

J. A. J. CRESSWELL,

Post Office Building, Washington, will offer in a few days, on behalf of Uncle Sam, a choice list of

NATIONAL PORTRAITS,

embracing some of the most distinguished statesmen and heroes of our history, and at prices which defy competition.

OUR TWO CENT DEPARTMENT

includes portraits of Andrew Jackson, the hero of New Orleans, after a bust by Powers.

OUR THREE CENT DEPARTMENT

is made up of heads of George Washington, father of his country, etc., after portraits by Houdon.

OUR SIX CENT DEPARTMENT

shows handsome profiles of Abraham Lincoln, after Volk's bust. None cheaper in the market.

OUR TEN CENT DEPARTMENT

contains portraits of Thomas Jefferson, author of the glorious Declaration of Independence, founder of several political parties, etc., after a bust by Powers.

Our Fifteen Cent Department

is devoted entirely to Daniel Webster, the expounder of the Constitution, counsel in the gutta percha case, etc. Very choice and warranted adhesive.

Our Twenty-Four Cent Department

consists of steel portraits of General Winfield Scott, whose hasty plate of soup will go down to posterity; very seasonable.

Our Thirty Cent Department

presents Alexander Hamilton, the Jay Cooke of early Federal times, and whose early and melancholy demise prevented his being photographed by Brady; very rare.

Our Ninety Cent Department

is enriched with accurate likenesses of Oliver Hazard Perry, who, like Fisk, won his fame on Erie; limited edition of choice proof impressions.—*Chicago Post.*

Belgium.—This kingdom begins the new year with an entirely new series, consisting of the following values and colors:

1 centime,	arms,	green.	10 centime,	head,	green.
2 do	do	blue.	20 do	do	blue.
3 do	do	amber.	30 do	do	amber.
6 do	do	carmine.	40 do	do	carmine.
8 do	do	violet.	1 franc.	do	violet.

The design of the arms series is as follows: In the upper part of the stamp are the national arms surmounted by a crown, with the motto in a scroll below, "L' Union Fait La Force." The Belgium lion again appears in the lower part, reposing on a tablet, bearing the simple inscription, "Belgique." In the centre, an oval containing the value. The higher values bear the head of King Leopold II.

South African Republic.—The Stamp Collectors' Magazine has received copies of the three values for this State, viz.:

1 (een) penny rose.

6 (zes) pence, blue.

1 (een) shilling, chrome green.

Peru.—The same magazine also learns from *Le Timbrophile* that a yellow 1 peso stamp, which was engraved at New York, is now in circulation.

HINTS TO AUTOGRAPH COLLECTORS.

Henry Ward Beecher lately replied as follows to an autograph seeker:

Brooklyn, Nov 24, 1869.

Your request for an autograph finds me in the deacon's spirit, who declined his pastor's request that he should "lead in prayer." When expostulated with and told that he "had the gifts, and could pray," he replied that "he knew he could pray, but he always hated to."

I so dislike autographing that I neglect all letters on that subject, and I answer yours only for charity's sake.

I am, truly, yours. Henry Ward Beecher.

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